

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Further, Applicants note that the year of filing is apparent from the application number, in particular, the second and third numbers of the German application number identify the year of filing, i.e., German Patent Application No. 200 13 887.1 was filed in 2000, German Patent Application No. 100 44 907.7 was also filed in 2000 (underlining added for clarity and explanation). Accordingly, Applicants submit that the instant amendment is apparent from the application numbers, and that the typographical error is apparent on its face, since the U.S. filing date of this application will predate the inadvertently erroneous dates identified in the application.

Moreover, Applicants note that the instant amendment is fully in accordance with the filing dates identified on the certified copies of the priority documents concurrently submitted herewith.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the instant amendment is proper for entry, and entry and consideration of the same in the first action on the merits is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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